

Applicant: Girton, Timothy S.
Application Serial No.: 09/704,494
Filing Date: November 2, 2000
Docket No.: 760-35 RCE
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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The application has been amended. Claims 1-6 and 13-17 have been cancelled. Claims 7-11 and 18 remain pending in the application.

Claims 1-6 and 13-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,143,675 to McCollam et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,639,278 to Dereume et al.

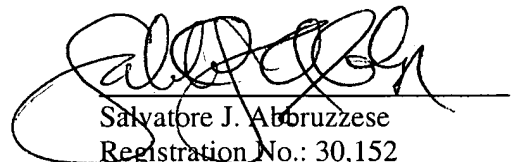
Additionally, Claims 1-6 and 13-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,657,544 to Pinchuk in view of Dereume et al. Each of these determinations is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 7-11 and 18 are allowed. In an effort to expedite prosecution of the present application without waiving any rights to filing a continuation application, rejected Claims 1-6 and 13-17 are hereby cancelled. Cancellation of these claims also obviates the Examiner's preceived claim objections. As the rejected claims, namely claims 1-6 and 13-17 have been cancelled and as the remaining claims, namely Claims 7-11 and 18 are allowed, the application including Claims 7-11 and 18 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

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Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this submission, please
contact undersigned counsel at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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